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TRANSCRIPTION:

Baby Toner. Born at
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REFLECTIONS
by Jeffrey Hunt

This slip of paper came to me among the many boxes of photographs and other things I inherited from my Gramma Dear, Blanche Toner Dear. It's a fragile piece of paper, measuring five inches by eight inches — faded, and somewhat hard to read.

The document was used when Maxine Penselin Wilson — my grandmother's niece — contacted me. She and my grandmother's sister, Barbara Toner Hopper, had decided to try and install a tombstone. I'm not entirely up to date on the facts, but I believe this was for the Yoncalla Pioneer Cemetery. I donated $100. I was a little late getting the money to them, but I believe the stone was made. I think it may have been an unmarked grave, and they took it upon themselves to see that it was finally marked. The baby belonged to James and Bertha Bright Smith Toner.

I did attend my grandaunt Barbara's funeral in that cemetery – the last remaining family plot. It was quite emotional. Her father, James Toner, who lived in Yoncalla — originally from Ireland — was a farm laborer. I believe one of his jobs was as a gravedigger, in that very Applegate Pioneer Cemetery.

Just memories as they come.